

**SOUTHWEST FISHERIES SCIENCE CENTER**  
**FOURTH QUARTER REPORT-FY 2003**  
**For the period July 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003**

**Submitted by:** Norman Bartoo, Acting Division Director, Fisheries Resources Division

**Title of accomplishment or milestone:** Deliver stage specific egg abundance data for 2003 sardine biomass estimate

**Current status:** Completed

**Background information:** To complete an DEPM of sardine it necessary to collect sardine eggs with the pairovot net and stage them into the 11 morphological stage of development. After the pairovot sample have been collected on the cruise the sardine eggs must be picked out of the sample and then examined and a developmental stage assigned to egg. The data is the loaded into a database and checked for errors.

**Purpose of activity:** The purpose of this activity is to provide the stage specific sardine egg abundance data necessary to produce a 2003 sardine biomass estimate.

**Description of accomplishment and significant results:** In the 2003 sardine survey 130 of the 192 pairovot tows were positive for a total of 2125 sardine egg. These egg have all been assigned into one of the 11 morphological stage of development. The data has been loaded into the CalCOFI databases and is ready for use in the 2003 sardine biomass estimate.

**Significance of accomplishment:** The data set created here will be used to produce the sardine biomass estimate for 2003. The estimate will be provided to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the California Department of Fish and Game to establish the sardine quota for the following year.

**Problems:** None

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